GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:517
ANSWERED ON:20.11.2007
DIRECT-TO-HOME SERVICE
Kaushal Shri Raghuvir Singh;Vijay Krishna Shri

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of free and paid channels being aired through Direct to Home (DTH) service;

(b) whether the Government proposes to include more free channels in the DTH service; (

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any guidelines have been issued with regard to the maximum charges which can be made on a paid channel;

(e) If so, the details thereof;

(f) the reasons for delinking headlines today, Aajtak and such other channels recently from the DTH link;

(g) whether it is obligatory for the DTH service providers to telecast some free to air programmes; and

(h) If so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. DASMUNSI)

(a), (b) & (c) 20 DD channels, 20 AIR channels and 16 private TV channels are being aired on DD Direct+ as on date. The capacity of DD Direct+ has been upgraded to 50 channels. At present there is no pay channel in DD Direct+. As regards private DTH service, DTH Licensee is at liberty to take a decision on which free to air or pay channels are to be included in their service provided such channels have received due permission for downlinking in India.

(d) & (e) All the Channels in the DD Direct+ are free to air channels. Prasar Bharati has fixed a carriage fee of Rs 25 lakhs and applicable service tax for payment by all private channels to be carried in the Doordarshan's DD Direct+ bouquet. As regards Private DTH service, tariff issues are within the jurisdiction of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India and till date no such limit has been fixed with respect to pricing of channel on the Private DTH service.

(f) All those channels not willing to pay the required carriage fee were dropped from DD Direct+ bouquet.

(g) & (h) As regards Private DTH service, as per Clause 7.8 of the DTH License Agreement, a DTH licensee shall carry or include in his DTH service, the TV channels which have been notified for mandatory/compulsory carriage as per provisions of Section 8 of the Cable Television Networks(Regulation) Act, 1995 as amended, except for the regional TV channels so notified. As per the present notification DD1 (National channel), DD(News channel), Lok Sabha Television, DD Rajya Sabha, DD Sports Channel, DD Urdu Channel, DD Bharati, Gyan Darshan channels are to be compulsorily carried by all DTH service providers.